(*d*) whether the Government has promised during last budget session to take up the drinking water supply problem in Kunnamkulam town by tapping the possibilities of the existing water works;

(*e*) whether the late Hon'ble Minister visited the water works referred to above during his tour to Kunnamkulam;

(*f*) whether the Government may be pleased to take up the question in earnest and submit a scheme to be brought into effect for developing the present water works by a water supplying scheme?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(*a*) A copy is appended. (*Appendix I.*)

(*b*) The work was carried out by the P. W. D. from funds contributed by the Department of Public Health.

(*c*) The works were designed only to serve the needs of bathing in the town of Kunnamkulam and not as a source of drinking water.

(*d*) The question of selecting a satisfactory source for the supply of water to Kunnamkulam will be investigated.

(*e*) Records are not available.

(*f*) Yes.

COCOANUT INDUSTRY—PROTECTION OF.

275. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether they have received any representation from the Cocoanut Growers' Association with regard to the depression in the prices of cocoanuts;

(*b*) if so, what were their demands?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The main demand was for protecting the interests of the cocoanut industry of this State and for placing it on a remunerative basis. There were also references to the necessity for intensive and extensive expansion of production, the development of cocoanut products generally, finding out outside markets for the sale of cocoanuts and cocoanut products, the organization of co-operative marketing societies for the sale of nuts and the opening of a Central Library with works on cocoanut industry. It was also suggested that a cocoanut cess of 6 as. to 12 as. per acre of cocoanut garden may be collected and utilised for the improvement and organization of the cocoanut industry.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the low price of the cocoanut products is due to the fact that foreign produces are being dumped into the Indian market ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) : To a certain extent I think it is so. There are other factors also coming into this question.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*) : May I know whether any representations have been received by the Government of Cochin about the desirability of imposing additional cess on Ceylon copra ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) : There have been public meetings requesting the Government to impose tariff and I think there were petitions also.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*) : May I know whether the Government have taken any action on those representations ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) : The only action that Cochin Durbar can take is to make proper representations to the Government of India which it has done.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*) : With regard to the recommendations mentioned here has the Government done anything ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) : I do not think that anything has yet been done. The last clause is to impose a cess of 6 to 12 annas per acre of cocoanut growing land. At a time like this I do not know whether the House will be for it.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*) : What about the other recommendations ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) : For everything money is necessary. Where is the fund? The cocoanut planters say "Collect some money from among ourselves and utilise this money for this purpose". The Government will certainly consider this if the House desires that this should be done. In my view, it is not proper to impose this cess.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): May I know whether the Government expects anything in this matter from the Government of India ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*) : How can we say? We have made forcible representations. This is an All-India question which connot be tackled by a small State like ours. The authority is with the Imperial Government and

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we can only make representations. There is difference of opinion about tariff even, as we remember the other day Dr. Thomas who is an accredited authority on these matters is not in favour of tariff.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Will the Hon'ble Diwan President give some enlightenment about the attitude of the Government of India in this matter? It was stated in the papers that when the Diwan was in Delhi he made some representations to the Government of India in this matter.

Mr. President: I know nothing about the attitude of the Government of India.

The point is that we took up the popular demand for an increased tariff on foreign cocoanut, and as the Hon'ble Minister has said, even amongst the Indians there is considerable difference of opinion as to whether that is a remedy. So far as I can infer from what I have heard at Delhi I can only say that the Government of India is reluctant to undertake an increase of tariff on Ceylon copra. One of the reasons is that India has got a favourable balance of trade relation with Ceylon. Even as matters stand at present Ceylon purchases very much more from India than we purchase from Ceylon. Therefore, they say that it is not proper that we should still further handicap the import of Ceylon products into India. As a matter of fact on my own initiative I suggested an alternative scheme for setting up a joint cocoanut marketing board composed of the representatives of the Governments of Travancore, Cochin and Madras and the Government of Ceylon also to do the various things mentioned in the petition. Unfortunately we have no response for that suggestion.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I may say that they are considering the question. They have sent us a questionnaire asking for some information which we have already answered.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): There is much agitation going on in British-Malabar and Travancore in this matter and if a joint action is taken it will strengthen the action of the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The meeting of Cocoanut Growers at Narakkal was a conjoint meeting of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar, and they passed resolutions also on behalf of the whole of Kerala. What further action does the hon'ble member want to take?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): If I may suggest, I would say the most potent remedy will be to use the Diwan President's

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personal influence with the Government of India in the matter. Just as in Burma Rubber, so also in Ceylon copra.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Even in the case of Burma Rubber there is difference of opinion.

Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar (*Trippunittura*): Does the Government think that any additional expenditure will have to be incurred if co-operative marketing societies are introduced here?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): No. But there are other things mentioned in the petition. If you want things to be done properly money must be forthcoming, and the person who wrote the petition knows that the cardinal fact is money and so he said 'Impose a cess of 6 to 12 annas per acre'. If you take the resolution as a whole the thing is workable. Otherwise it will not be workable. It is not possible to meet all these things out of public money.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to move the Railway Board to reduce the railway fare for exporting cocoanuts in raw condition from Ernakulam to all over India?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It will be considered by the Government.

Mr. B. M. Peter (*Latin Christians—Mattancheri*): Is the Government aware that the Government of India have reduced their duty?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): It is not a reduction of the tariff exactly. It is a reduction of the tariff value placed upon cocoanut.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am not an expert in these lines.

Mr. President: They have not reduced the rate of duty. The duty of foreign copra is *advalorem* duty, i. e., so much per cent on the value of the commodity. From time to time the Commerce Department of the Government of India has to fix the value upon which the duty has to be assessed. According to your own statements since the price of cocoanut has gone down they have fixed a lower price.

UPLIFT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES—PROGRAMME OF.

276. മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. വള്ളോൻ: താഴെ എഴുതുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ നിന്നും സദയം മറുപടി നൽകുമോ:—

ഇതുവരെയും നടത്തീട്ടുള്ളതും ഇനി മേലിൽ നടത്തുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതുമായ അധഃകൃതോദ്ധാരണത്തിനു വല്ല കാര്യപരിപാടിയുമുണ്ടോ; ഉ

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